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The Campaigns Come To A Close . . .

Next Tuesday climaxes a singularly dull political campaign which, at least in this part of the state, has failed to arouse the voters.

Much of the political interest locally has centered about the legislative races, most likely because of the extremely close primary contest for state representative. This, plus the contests on the county ballot, plus the fact that the city is also holding its election Tuesday, may serve to boost the vote count over ordinary off-year election turn-outs.

Nevertheless, the general attitude is one of apathy this year, and we're not quite certain why this is so. The candidates for governor have toured the state again and again and have minced few words about one another. This is the time which ordinarily commands the center of attention in off-year elections, but for some reason the voters weren't stirred this year.

What the outcome will be, no one knows. Complicating the election uncertainty is the Cuban crisis. Few observers are willing to go out on a limb to predict which way the crisis will move the electorate. Will the President's renewed popularity rub off on the Democratic candidates? Or in this period of crisis will the "don't rock the boat" philosophy favor incumbents, including Republican incumbents?

Certainly, the President's decisive action removed Cuba as a major Republican vote getting issue, but some Republican candidates are still attempting to get some mileage out of it by saying they told you so. What they don't say, of course, is that their call for earlier embargos or an invasion of Cuba if heeded, would have been disastrous, and we think Senator Humphrey made this crystal clear during his appearance here Tuesday night.

The Republicans who contend that the Russian offensive missile sites in Cuba were common knowledge long before the President made the public revelation are not only wrong, they are irresponsible, Humphrey said, and he clinched the argument by pointing out that the firm evidence of the missile sites was presented to the President on

Oct. 15, and not before, by John McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency. McCone Humphrey explained is a conservative Republican, and it should be obvious to anyone that there was no firm evidence before McCone presented it.

Which brings us to the point. One of the I-told-you-so Republican Congressmen "hungry for re-election," as Humphrey put it, is Odin Langen of the Seventh district.

Now Odin is no villain, and we've never said he is. He appears to be a decent, pleasant man who does his duty as he sees it. But in this time of crisis we need more than decency and pleasantness and perfunctory duty performing. We need excellence and we can have it in our representative in Congress by electing Dr. Harding Noblitt to replace Mr. Langen.

Dr. Noblitt is, we feel, one of the best qualified DFL candidates for Congress this state has ever produced, and it would be a shame if he is not elected.

Earlier this week a respected Minneapolis newsman dropped into our office to discuss the Congressional campaign.

"I don't know if they realized it or not," he said, "but last night a little audience up North heard the most articulate and the most erudite explanation of the Cuban problem and the Cuban issue I've heard yet. It was given by Harding Noblitt."

Noblitt's support of the President in foreign policy is reason enough for electing him. But there are other reasons. Langen's economics cannot be as naive as he pretended them to be in his recent appearance here, but surely he does not have a firm or realistic grasp of the complexities of economics as they exist today.

The presentation he made of his analysis of President Kennedy's tax cutting suggestion was incredible, and it clashed point for point with a similar presentation made only two nights later in Alexandria by the Republican governor of this state.

There is a practical as well as a political reason for our endorsement of Karl Rolvaag and the DFL constitutional

amendment will remain in Democratic hands for at least two more, and more than likely, six more years.

In this era of close relationship between the federal government and the states, wherein federal programs need be augmented or supported by state programs, for instance, it simply seems more practical to have a Democratic administration in the state capitol. Minnesota would certainly profit by it.

We support all the DFL constitutional officers, but we make special mention of the present attorney general. If Walter Mondale, the finest attorney general Minnesota has ever had, and perhaps the finest state attorney general in the nation, is replaced by an Eastern carpetbagger, then a political travesty of sickening proportions has been wrought.

Let's get this point right out in the open. Minnesota politics is traditionally clean. The parties almost always nominate decent, honorable candidates who enjoy the respect, if not the affection, of their opponents.

The last candidate of either party who aroused real wrath was George Mackinnon, the Republican candidate for governor four years ago. This year there is another candidate who does not have the respect of the opposition. That man is the Republican candidate for attorney general Robert Kunzig.

A week ago we endorsed Bernard "Buzz" Sonstegard for the state house of representatives. We have had several letters to the editor in support of Sonstegard's opponent, Otto Clark, including the one which appears elsewhere on this page today.

In our endorsement editorial we said Clark had not been an effective legislator when he held the office before because of his inconsistent political position.

This allegation has come in for criticism, but the criticism only reinforces our conviction in this matter. Some of the critics inferred from our previous editorial that we meant the Liberals in the legislature were the only ones unhappy with Clark's switching of allegiances. This is not what we said. The Conservatives in the legislature also were wary of Clark's vacillations. We had heard this when Clark was in the legislature, and last week, after our editorial was published, we heard it again from one of the most respected and

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